

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S10247–S10326*

**Measures Introduced:** Twelve bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1738–1749, and S. Res. 245–246. **Pages S10294–95**

**Measures Reported:**

S. 1234, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. (S. Rept. No. 109–138)

S. 1235, to amend chapters 19 and 37 of title 38, United States Code, to extend the availability of \$400,000 in coverage under the servicemembers' life insurance and veterans' group life insurance programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–139) **Page S10294**

**Measures Passed:**

**Recognizing Simon Wiesenthal:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 245, recognizing the life and accomplishments of Simon Wiesenthal. **Pages 10254–57**

**Iran Nonproliferation Amendments Act:** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 1713, to make amendments to the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 related to International Space Station payments, and the bill was then passed. **Pages 10257–58**

**Statue of Po'Pay in Statuary Hall:** Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 242, providing for acceptance of a statue of Po'Pay, presented by the State of New Mexico, for placement in National Statuary Hall. **Pages 10319–20**

**Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act:** Senate passed H.R. 3761, to provide special rules for disaster relief employment under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina, clearing the measure for the President. **Page 10320**

**Coast Guard Hurricane Response:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 246, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the missions and performance of the United

States Coast Guard in responding to Hurricane Katrina. **Pages 10325–26**

**Agriculture Appropriations:** Senate continued consideration of H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages 10264–87**

**Adopted:**

Bennett Amendment No. 1783, to permit the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board to obligate and expend funds for any activity to improve the environment and public health. **Pages 10264–69**

Bennett Amendment No. 1803, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act relative to nonprofit religious organizations in the United States. **Page 10270**

Bennett Amendment No. 1804, to prohibit funds from being used unless certain certifications are made relative to manufacturers of contact lens. **Page 10270**

Bennett Amendment No. 1805, to provide that the federal facility located at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Poplarville, Mississippi shall be designated as the Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory. **Page 10270**

Bennett (for Kyl) Amendment No. 1806, to convey title in certain real property. **Page 10270**

Bennett (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1807, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to submit to Congress a report on whether to restore the National Organic Program. **Page 10270**

Bennett (for Feingold) Amendment No. 1808, to direct the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to publish and uniform methods and rules for addressing chronic wasting disease. **Page 10270**

Bennett (for McConnell) Amendment No. 1809, to provide for livestock assistance. **Pages 10270–71**

Bennett (for Smith/Wyden) Amendment No. 1786, to allow the Secretary to authorize the use of

certain funds that would otherwise be recaptured under the rural business enterprise grant program.

**Page 10271**

Bennett (for McCain) Amendment No. 1785, to express the sense of the Senate regarding funding directives contained in H.R. 2744 or its accompanying report.

**Page 10272**

Bennett (for Baucus) Amendment No. 1800, to express the sense of the Senate regarding public sector funding of agricultural research and development.

**Page 10271**

Bennett (for DeWine) Amendment No. 1741, to pledge continued support for international hunger relief efforts and express the sense of the Senate that the United States Government should use resources and diplomatic leverage to secure food aid for countries that are in need of further assistance to prevent acute and chronic hunger.

**Pages 10272–73**

Bennett (for Reid) Amendment No. 1812, to provide that funds made available for the Plant Materials Center in Fallon, Nevada, shall remain available until expended.

**Page 10273**

Bennett (for Salazar) Amendment No. 1754, to provide for a report on the impact of increased prices of gas, natural gas, and diesel on agricultural producers, ranchers, and rural communities.

**Pages 10275–76**

Bennett (for Salazar) Amendment No. 1755, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a report on the conduct of activities to address bark beetle infestations.

**Page 10276**

By 55 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 238), Coburn Amendment No. 1775, to require that any limitation, directive, or earmarking contained in either the House of Representatives or Senate report accompanying this bill be included in the conference report or joint statement accompanying the bill in order to be considered as having been approved by both Houses of Congress.

**Page 10283**

By 66 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. 239), Bingaman/Lugar Amendment No. 1797, to increase funds to implement and administer Team Nutrition programs, with an offset.

**Pages 10281–83, S10283–84**

Harkin Amendment 1835, to limit the use of certain funds.

**Pages 10284–86**

Kohl (for Dodd) Amendment No. 1818, to require the Food and Drug Administration to issue a monograph with respect to over-the-counter sunscreen.

**Page 10286**

Kohl (for Dodd) Amendment No. 1849 (to Amendment No. 1818), in the nature of a substitute.

**Pages 10286–87**

Rejected:

Coburn Amendment No. 1773, to reduce spending levels, to promote more efficient use of resources, and to encourage more appropriate budget estimates.

**Pages 10278–80, S10280–81**

Pending:

Dayton Modified Amendment No. 1844, to condition the use of funds for carrying out a provision relating to prevented planting payments, with an offset.

**Pages 10277–78**

Bingaman (for Jeffords) Amendment No. 1796, to provide funds to carry out the historic barn preservation program, with an offset.

**Page 10280**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Bennett Amendment No. 1752, to establish a demonstration intermediate relending program for the construction and rehabilitation of housing for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Nation, previously agreed to on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, was modified by unanimous consent.

**Page 10270**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2005; with a vote to occur on or in relation to Dayton Amendment No. 1844 (listed above), followed by a vote on or in relation to Bingaman (for Jeffords) Amendment No. 1796 (listed above), with no amendments in order to these amendments prior to the vote; followed by a vote on passage of the bill; provided further, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair then be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

**Page 10326**

**Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act:** Senate concurred in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3768, to provide emergency tax relief for persons affected by Hurricane Katrina, clearing the measure for the President.

**Pages 10320–25**

**Appointments:**

*United States Commission on Civil Rights:* The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 98–183, as amended by Public Law 103–419, appointed Arlan D. Melendez, of Nevada, to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

**Page 10319**

**Messages from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared by Executive Order

13224; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-23)

Page 10292

Messages From the House: Pages 10292-93

Measures Referred: Page 10293

Measures Placed on Calendar: Page 10293

Measures Read First Time: Page 10293

Executive Communications: Pages 10293-94

Additional Cosponsors: Pages 10295-96

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages 10296-S10307

Additional Statements: Pages 10291-92

Amendments Submitted: Pages 10307-19

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page 10319

Authority for Committees to Meet: Page 10319

Privilege of the Floor: Page 10319

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—239) Pages S10283, S10284

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:36 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, September 22, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10326.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the status of the World Trade Organization negotiations on agriculture, focusing on the Doha Round Development Agenda, and the links between agricultural policy and trade policy, after receiving testimony from Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture; Robert Portman, United States Trade Representative; Audrae Erickson, Corn Refiners Association, on behalf of AgTrade, Leonard W. Condon, Altria Corporate Services, Inc., on behalf of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, and Mark Viso, World Vision United States, all of Washington, D.C.; and Allen Helms, National Cotton Council, Clarkedale, Arkansas.

### ENERGY PRICING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the rise of domestic energy prices, focusing on what actions can be taken to profitably lower U.S. oil consumption, after receiving testimony from John Seesel, Associate General Counsel for Energy, Federal Trade Commis-

sion; Jim Wells, Director, Energy, Resources, and Science Issues, Government Accountability Office; Guy Caruso, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Robin West, PFC Energy Team, Odd-Even Bustnes, Rocky Mountain Institute, Robert Slaughter, National Petrochemical and Refiners Association, and Tyson Slocum, Public Citizen, all of Washington, D.C.; and Ronald W. Kosh, American Automobile Association-Mid Atlantic, Wilmington, Delaware.

### ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water concluded a hearing to examine the Endangered Species Act and the role of States, Tribes and local governments, focusing on areas where the law may be strengthened or new programs created to encourage species recovery at all levels of government, after receiving testimony from Colorado State Representative Cory Gardner, Denver; Billy Frank, Jr., Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, Washington; Michael A. Pasteris, Forest Preserve District of Will County, Joliet, Illinois, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; John Baughman, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, D.C.; Bill Burnham, The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho; Robert P. Davison, Wildlife Management Institute, Corvallis, Oregon; and Dwayne Shaw, Downeast Salmon Federation/Downeast Rivers Land Trust, Columbia Falls, Maine.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Charles A. Ford, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, Mark Langdale, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, and Brenda LaGrange Johnson, of New York, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, who was introduced by Senators McCain and Collins, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### TRANSIT SYSTEM SAFETY

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the lessons that have been learned to secure United States transit systems relating to the London terrorist attacks, focusing on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) operating the Washington areas subway system, increasing public awareness and security, and training the transit workforce and first-responders, after receiving testimony from Edmund S. Hawley, Assistant Secretary